

FAQs on Enhanced Preschool Subsidies (With effect from January 2020)

Definitions

AS: Additional Subsidies

KiFAS: Kindergarten Fee Assistance Scheme

S/N	FAQ	Response
<u>Details of Enhancements</u>		
1.	Which subsidies will be enhanced?	<p>At the National Day Rally 2019, PM Lee announced that means-tested preschool subsidies, i.e. Child Care Additional Subsidy (AS) and Kindergarten Fee Assistance Scheme (KiFAS) will be enhanced to make preschools more affordable.</p> <p>The Government will raise the gross monthly household income ceiling for AS and KiFAS to \$12,000, or \$3,000 on Per Capita Income (PCI) basis. The Government will also increase the subsidy amounts across all income tiers qualifying for AS and KiFAS.</p> <p>The eligibility criteria for these means-tested subsidies remain unchanged. Find out more here.</p>
2.	Is the Child Care Basic Subsidy enhanced?	<p>There is no change to the Basic Subsidy under the Child Care Subsidy Framework.</p> <p>All children who are Singapore Citizens and currently enrolled in an ECDA-licensed childcare centre will continue to be eligible for the Basic Subsidy. The amount of Basic Subsidy that a family receives depends on the working status of the mother and the type of programme that the child is enrolled in.</p> <p>Mothers who work at least 56 hours per month will qualify for a Basic Subsidy of \$600 per month for a full-day infant care programme or a Basic Subsidy of \$300 per month for</p>

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		<p>full-day child care programme. If the mother is working, and the monthly household income is \$12,000 or below (or per capita income (PCI) is \$3,000 and below) per month, the child will qualify for the enhanced AS.</p> <p>If the mother does not work for 56 hours per month, the Basic Subsidy is \$150 per month.</p>
3.	When will the enhanced preschool subsidies (i.e. Child Care AS or KiFAS) take effect?	The enhanced preschool subsidies will take effect from January 2020 .
<u>Existing Enrolments (enrolled before 1 Jan 2020)</u>		
4.	How does ECDA determine the AS / KiFAS receivable under the enhanced structure?	<p>ECDA determines the enhanced AS/ KiFAS amount based on the household income determined* at the point of application or last update, and the latest programme fee. This updated enhanced subsidy/ KiFAS rate will hold until the next point of income re-assessment[^], or until such time ECDA is informed via the preschool of changes in your household details.</p> <p><u>*Computation of HHI/PCI:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For salaried employees, the gross monthly income is computed based on average income over the preceding 12-month period (before CPF deduction and including bonuses, commissions, overtime pay, and allowances). As various organisations and employees have different salary structures (e.g. base pay + bonuses), the total remuneration would be a fairer way of assessing an individual's income. • For self-employed persons, the gross monthly income is computed based on the annual trade income from the latest IRAS Notice of Assessment, divided by 12. • This method of computation has remained unchanged. <p><u>^Fixed points of reassessment</u> Applicants' working status and household income will be assessed at the following points:</p> <p>(1) when the child enrolls in a new centre; (2) when the child moves from infant care to child care (for child care subsidy only); and</p>

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		<p>(3) when the child moves from Nursery 2 (N2) to Kindergarten 1 (K1), i.e. at the end of N2.</p> <p>ECDA introduced these fixed points of assessment to provide parents with greater certainty over the amount of subsidies they can receive. Changes in household income between these points of assessment will not affect the subsidies that the parents receive. However, parents who encounter changes in their circumstances (e.g. drop in household income) may approach their preschool to submit a Subsidy Update application for ECDA to reassess the subsidies.</p>
5.	<p>Will I receive a notification from ECDA on the AS / KiFAS receivable under the enhanced structure?</p>	<p>ECDA has updated the AS / KiFAS under the enhanced structure for existing enrolments, based on their HHI/PCI assessed at the point of application / last update.</p> <p>To notify parents of the enhanced AS / KiFAS receivable, ECDA has sent out SMS and email notifications to eligible parents in end-Dec 2019. In short, eligible parents have received notifications from ECDA, if they qualified for higher AS / KiFAS under the enhanced structure, based on the existing household income and latest programme fee. The enhanced AS / KiFAS will take effect from Jan 2020.</p> <p>If there is a <u>drop in your programme fee</u>, the AS / KiFAS will be adjusted according to the latest fee. Your centre will update you on the updated fee payable based on the latest programme fee and updated AS / KiFAS.</p> <p>If there is no change to the AS or KiFAS receivable (e.g. because your household/ per capita income exceeds the eligibility limit), no notification will be sent.</p>
6.	<p>I have updated my income with ECDA in Oct/Nov/Dec 2019 (via Form 2) and received a notification after that. Thereafter, I received another notification from ECDA in end-Dec. Which notification should I refer to?</p>	<p>The first notification that you received after you have submitted your application to update your income informed you of your AS / KiFAS receivable under the previous subsidy structure, as the application was processed before the implementation of the enhancements.</p> <p>ECDA has since updated your AS / KiFAS receivable under the enhanced subsidy structure, based on your existing household or per capita income and latest programme</p>

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		fee. Parents are notified of the updated AS / KiFAS amount via SMS and email notifications in end-Dec 19/early Jan 2020. You may therefore refer to this notification on the subsidy receivable from Jan 2020.
7.	I think I qualify for more subsidies than the amount stated in the notification. What do I do?	<p>The enhanced AS/ KiFAS amount is based on the household income determined at the point of application/last update and the latest programme fee. Please note that there is no change to the method of computation - the base salary, bonuses, commissions, overtime pay, allowances, and employee CPF contributions are included in the income assessment computation.</p> <p>You may approach your centre to clarify your application, and provide them with the necessary supporting documents to seek a review of your eligibility.</p>
8.	Why are my children enrolled in the same child care centre / kindergarten receiving different Additional Subsidy (AS) / KiFAS amounts under the enhanced structure?	<p>The subsidies / KiFAS amount that your Singapore Citizen children receive is based on your household income / Per Capital Income (PCI) that is determined <u>at the point of each subsidy application</u>.</p> <p>Hence, the subsidy / KiFAS amount for your children may differ if their subsidy / KiFAS applications were submitted at different times.</p>
<u>New Enrolments / New Applications processed in Jan 2020</u>		
9.	How do I estimate the amount of enhanced Additional Subsidy (AS) that my child may be eligible for?	<p>You may use the Child Care & Infant Care Subsidy Calculator to get an estimate of the enhanced AS your child may be eligible for.</p> <p>The Subsidy Calculator is available on ECDA's Subsidies and Financial Assistance webpage at https://go.gov.sg/subsidycalculator, and in the Moment of Life app.</p>

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10.	I have just enrolled my child in a child care centre/ kindergarten. How do I apply for the enhanced subsidies?	<p>If your Singapore Citizen child is enrolled in a child care centre, you may request for Form 1 – Child Care Enrolment and Subsidy Application from the centre personnel, or download a soft copy from ECDA’s Subsidies and Financial Assistance webpage here. Please submit the form, with the necessary supporting documents, to the centre personnel upon completion.</p> <p>If your Singapore Citizen child is enrolled in a kindergarten operated by the Ministry of Education or an Anchor Operator, you may request for Form KF1 – Enrolment and Kindergarten Fee Assistance Scheme (KiFAS) Application from the centre personnel, or download a soft copy from ECDA’s Subsidies and Financial Assistance webpage here. Please submit the form, with the necessary supporting documents to the centre personnel upon completion.</p>
11.	How will I know if my subsidy / KiFAS application is successful?	<p>You will receive an <u>acknowledgement</u> from ECDA via SMS and email once your centre submits your application.</p> <p>You will be notified of the <u>application outcome</u> via SMS and email within 1 to 4 weeks from the date of submission once your application is approved. A copy of the email notification will also be sent to your centre.</p>
12.	What can I do to facilitate the processing of my subsidy / KiFAS application?	<p>To facilitate the processing of your application, please provide accurate and complete information and submit the relevant supporting documents (where applicable) along with the application.</p> <p>You may refer to the scenarios and corresponding list of required supporting documents via the “Supporting Document Checklist” here.</p>

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<u>Financial Assistance</u>		
13.	Who do I approach if I require further financial assistance, even after the Basic Subsidy and enhanced Additional Subsidy?	<p>Low-income families with difficult family circumstances and face difficulties paying their preschool fees (even after receiving Basic and Additional Subsidy) can apply for Child Care Financial Assistance. These families can also apply for the one-time Start-up Grant, to pay for the initial costs of enrolling their child into an infant or child care centre.</p> <p>Families with gross household income of \$3,500 and below, or Per Capital Income (PCI) of \$875 and below, can be considered for this financial assistance. Children must be Singapore Citizens and placed in affordable child care centres. Both parents should also be working at least 56 hours per month, or produce valid reasons for not working, such as he/she is on medical leave, under incarceration, looking for work or has been certified as a full-time caregiver for a dependant. Relevant supporting documents should accompany the application.</p> <p>Eligible families may apply for the assistance through the child care centre. For more information, please approach your child care centre.</p>
14.	Can I receive further financial assistance in addition to the enhanced KiFAS?	<p>Low-income families earning \$1,900 or less, and have difficulties paying for the initial costs of enrolling their child into a kindergarten (e.g. registration fee, deposit, school uniform) may apply for a yearly Start-up Grant (SUG).</p>